



STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY
P.O. BOX 1321
DOVER, DELAWARE 19903-1321
302-744-2743
www.ohs.delaware.gov

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Andrea Summers
Community Relations Officer
672-7642 (w) 943-7293 (c)

Early St. Patrick's Weekend Results – 38 Arrested for DUI ***41 Patrols and one checkpoint planned for St. Patrick's Day itself***

Dover - A St. Patrick's weekend enforcement blitz resulted in 38 arrests for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) of alcohol/and or drugs. Twenty-nine of the DUI arrests came from sobriety checkpoints conducted by the New Castle County DUI Task Force and the Rehoboth Beach Police Department. The remaining nine DUI arrests were the result of DUI saturation patrols conducted by law enforcement agencies statewide.

In addition to the 38 DUI arrests, officers also apprehended 9 wanted individuals, made 6 drug arrests, 6 felony arrests, seized one weapon, and issued 28 speeding citations, 14 seat belt citations, 1 child restraint citation, and 144 citations for other traffic offenses.

Though many people celebrated St. Patrick's Day over the weekend, others will hold out until the 17th to have their green beer or Irish whiskey. On Tuesday the Georgetown Police Department is scheduled to conduct their checkpoint originally scheduled for this past weekend, and police from 19 state and local police agencies will also operate DUI saturation patrols starting as early as 7 p.m. and continuing through 3 o'clock in the morning.

This enforcement effort is coordinated by the Delaware Office of Highway Safety (OHS) as part of its ongoing *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign. Nationally, over the last five years, 38% of all St. Patrick's Day deaths have been alcohol-related. For more information on OHS's year round DUI efforts please visit our website at www.ohs.delaware.gov.

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